
REMARKS

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The above amendment overcomes the examiner's objection to claim 14.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC § 102

The examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5 6-10, 13, 15 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Novak (US 5,754,112). The applicant respectfully disagrees.

Regarding claim 1, the examiner asserts that Novak discloses a peripheral data storage system comprising a host interface for communicating with a host system, and a user-actuated signaling subsystem. In particular, the examiner asserts that element 97 in FIG. 4 of Novak is a "user actuated switch" with a corresponding subsystem (element 95-X) that activates/deactivates the switch. However, element 97 in FIG. 4 is not "user actuated" as asserted by the examiner. At col. 5, lines 30-36, Novak discloses that "each bay may also be provided with a solenoid or similar electro-mechanical device 95, that is energized by the ACTIVE LED signal available on SCA-connector pin 77. For active storage units such as DISK 4 and DISK 11 in FIGS. 2 and 3, mechanism 95 is activated so that the mechanical arm portion 97 physically prevents removal of the active unit." Therefore, Novak does not teach that element 97 is "user actuated", rather it is actuated by the disk drive when the disk drive is in an active state (defined at col. 2, lines 11-12, as writing, reading, or seeking data). Nowhere does Novak describe element 97 as being "user actuated". The rejection should therefore be withdrawn.

The rejections of the remaining claims should be withdrawn for at least the reasons set forth above. New independent claim 20 is allowable for the same reasons.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC § 103

The examiner rejected claims 7-8 under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Novak. This rejection should be withdrawn for at least the reasons set forth above.

The examiner rejected claims 4, 14 and 16-18 under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Novak in view of Chen (US 2005/0160213).

Regarding claim 14, the examiner asserts that Chen discloses various states in communication between the host and storage device. However, neither Novak nor Chen disclose any reason to communicate a signal received through a user-actuated signaling subsystem to a host, or to receive an acknowledgement signal from the host. The rejection should therefore be withdrawn.

The examiner rejected claims 11 and 12 under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Novak in view of Madhavan (US 2005/0044220).

Although Madhavan discloses applications for disk arrays, and in particular for backing up data, neither Novak nor Madhavan disclose any reason to receive a request through a user-actuated signaling subsystem of a peripheral data storage system, wherein the request for performing a task corresponding to a host-scheduled backup operation for a scheduled backing up of data to the peripheral data storage system, or for performing an on-demand backing up of pre-selected data to the peripheral data storage system. The rejection should therefore be withdrawn.

The rejections of the remaining claims should be withdrawn for at least the reasons set forth above.

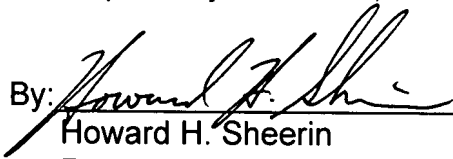
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the rejections. If it is believed that a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of the present application, or clarify matters with regard to its allowance, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any required fees associated with this Communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1209.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 8/8/07

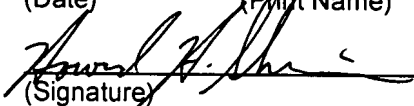
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on:

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